



Australian Bureau of Statistics

CensusAtSchool Australia



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Resources



CaSQ 3A - What's the Difference Between Numerical and Categorical Data?

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Data

Data can be classified into two different types.

Categorical

Values or observations that can be sorted into groups or categories.

Examples: Sex, Eye colour and Favourite colour.

Bar charts and pie graphs are used to graph categorical data.

Numerical

Values or observations that can be measured. And these numbers can be placed in ascending or descending order. Examples: Height, Arm Span and Weight.

Scatter plots and line graphs are used to graph numerical data.

Task:

1. Here are some question topics from CensusAtSchool. Sort them according to whether they will yield categorical or numerical data.

Amount of money earned last week Arm span Birth date Concentration exercise (seconds) Dominant hand reaction time Favourite sport Height Hours slept per night	Language mostly spoken at home Foot length Opinions on environmental conservation School post code State/Territory live in Travel method to school Travel time to school Year level
<u>Categorical</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	<u>Numerical</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.

2. Why is some data that contain numbers, such as post codes and birth dates considered categorical?

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